IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, Before line 5, please insert the following as the first paragraph:

--This application is a Continuation Application of International Application PCT/JP02/05693 filed June 7, 2002.--

Page 13, please replace the paragraph at lines 6-20 with the following amended paragraph:

For example, if NA = 0.46, λ_1= 488nm and λ_2= 632.8nm, then the relationship between the value of the shift (L and the signal strength is as shown in FIG. 2. FIG. 2 shows the signal strength relative to the value at ΔL = 4.67μm, with the value at (L = 4.67(m being taken to be 100. It can be seen that the signal strength is a maximum at ΔL = 4.67μm. In this case, it is thus preferable to design the rod lens ~~10~~ 102 such that the shift ΔL is the optimum value of 4.67μm. ΔL merely represents the difference between the focal position of the detecting light and the focal position of the exciting light, and the same result is achieved regardless of whether the focal distance of the detecting light is longer or shorter than the focal distance of the exciting light.